

L. L. POLK, - - - EDITOR.  
D. H. BROWDER, BUSINESS MANAGER.  
Raleigh, N. C.

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PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

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PLEASE NOTICE.

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Again we want to say to our correspondents that they *must* give us their real names if they expect us to publish their articles. We must have their names as a guarantee of good faith. And again, we must ask our friends—all—to condense what they have to say—boil it down. We are anxious to give as great variety as possible to our readers, and to do this the articles should be *short and to the point*.

## IMMIGRATION.

The most important movement ever yet inaugurated to induce immigration to the Southern States, was the convention held at Hot Springs on the 25th ult. Certain it is that no movement was ever started under such favorable auspices or with stronger contributing forces to success. Eleven States were represented, among them the Governors of Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia, and prominent citizens from New York to the Mississippi. The railroads and steamship companies were strongly represented. We published last week the resolutions which were adopted as a basis of permanent organization.

This combined effort, embracing as it does all towns and cities in the South with 1,000 inhabitants or more, and all the lines of transportation and their connections, which traverse all Southern country, and fortified with the best business brain of the country and impelled by that great motive power, self-interest, will assuredly arouse and stimulate the people on this important question as they have never been before. And if it shall be directed to bringing to the inviting fields of the South, solid, industrious, earnest, law-abiding people, who will come to cast their destiny with ours, we shall rejoice. But in the competition which will spring from an active influx of population, the danger is that we will open our gates to be flooded with the scum of other nations. We had a thousand times rather see our uncultivated fields grow up in brush and bramble and our minerals remain in the hidden home of their creation, and our thundering water powers continue to rejoice in the "roaring chorus of the wild wilderness," than to see

this grand and lovely southland cursed  
and blighted with a population whose  
ideal government is anarchy, and  
whose religion is the wildest fanati-  
cism.

We note that neither Governor Scales nor our State Immigration Agent, Mr. Prttrick, were present at the convention, but we trust that they, with the other good citizens of our State who were, as well as all others, will lend a hearty co-operation in securing a class of good substantial immigration to our State. We trust furthermore that North Carolina in the very beginning will discourage and reject all such as may not be of this character.

## FARM LABOR IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The recent report issued by the North Carolina Bureau of Labor Statistics has been used by some partisan correspondent of the Philadelphia Press from this city who signs himself "T. B.," for the purpose of exaggerating and misrepresenting the condition of farm labor in this State. We know that the price of farm labor is low, but we are safe in saying that, as a rule, the laborers are paid fully as much as the employer can afford. We know that the investments in farming in this State and throughout the South pay less than in any other department of industry, and that men, economical, frugal, industrious men, owning good lands, have to struggle day and night, and year in and year out to keep their heads above water. The mortgage system, the credit system, the one-crop system, all conspire to keep him down, but the intolerable burthens imposed by discriminating legislation, which feeds and fattens capital and monopoly at his expense, chiefly, is the load under which he is staggering. We hear much of the unjust and iniquitous discriminations of our tariff system, but in our judgment they are not to be compared in enormity to the ruinous exactions of the Banking or Currency system of the country. There are evils innumerable which beset the farmers of the country on all sides, and which the merchants, the mechanics, the laborers and all professions and all interests in all channels of trade and commerce, feel and must continue to feel until a just and proper equilibrium is reached between all our great industries. We would that labor on the farm and in all departments of industry could receive more remunerative prices, but so far as farm laborers are concerned in this State, they get all, and frequently more, than their earnings to the employer justifies. We would like, above all things, for "T. B." to tell us how we can pay more.

NEWS TO US.

The *Concord Times* says Wayne county Farmers' Alliance week before last passed resolutions endorsing Stedman for Governor and Alexander for Lieutenant Governor.—*Durham Recorder*.

We see the above paragraph going the rounds of the press of the State, and it is news to us and to every member of the Alliance in Wayne county. We were present at the meeting referred to, and we assert that so far from the meeting endorsing the above named gentlemen, the matter was not referred to by any one in the meeting. And if it had been, every member of the order knows full well that it would have received its quietus promptly. Wayne County Alliance nor any other County Alliance nor any other kind of an Alliance has or will endorse any ticket in their Alliance meetings.

The members of our order have no preferences for candidates, or politics which they wish to conceal, or to act upon in secret, but in the exercise of the largest freedom they are at perfect liberty to act as any other citizen—choose and vote as they please.

MARRIED.

On Wednesday morning last, in the First Presbyterian Church of this city, Mr. Josephus Daniels, editor of the *State Chronicle*, and Miss Addie Worth Bagley, daughter of the late Maj. Bagley, so long the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and grand-daughter of the late Governor Jonathan Worth, were united in marriage.

In all its appointments it was the most pleasing and beautiful marriage ceremony we have ever witnessed. Calla lillies, roses and flowers of loveliest hue adorned the rostrum and rested in radiant beauty on the background of richest, darkest green and smiled their bright welcome to the happy throng which packed galleries and floor. The melody of tenderest music, mingling with the rustling of silks, and the excited whisperings and suppressed joyousness of happy youth, filled the spacious hall with the exhilarating freshness and spirit of a May-morning forest-scene, where the caroling of birds, the dripping rain-drops and the laughing rills blend their glad songs in honor of their spring-god, and suddenly—as if under the touch of magic—the murmuring hum is hushed, and a voice, sweet as the trilling of a mocking bird and clear and tender as the silvery chime of a tinkling bell, rang out, in joyous notes, and the vast throng sat spell bound and entranced as the "Sweet Singer of Carolina" welcomed the approach of the procession. Preceded by lovely flower girls and handsome young men and beautiful maidens, the happy bride and groom took their position in front of the officiating minister, Rev. Dr. Watkins, and immediately, under a lovely bell of flowers of creamy whiteness, where they were made "man and wife."

May their life be as bright and unclouded as the auspicious morning on which they were wedded, and when the ruddy sun-set of its evening shall come, may it rest in the soft mellow glow of a remembrance of the days and years spent in devotion to each other's happiness and for the good of mankind.

OUR FINE STOCK SHOW.

The committees in charge of the various departments are working lively to make the Wake County Cattle Show on the 15th a grand success. The lovers of thorough and high bred stock will enjoy it. There will be a street parade of cattle and horses. We want to see the maidens and mothers lend their encouraging presence and learn the girls that a beautiful and blooded cow is one of the essentials in good living and good housekeeping. We want to see the old men and the boys present and learn that the true basis of agricultural wealth and success lies not in cotton or any other one crop, but in the cultivation of the grasses and the rearing of good stock. Let all come and make this a gala day and profit by its lessons. Reduced rates on all the roads leading to Raleigh guarantees a good crowd.

OUR MEMORIAL DAY.

The Tenth will be celebrated in Raleigh, and we trust throughout the South, in honor of the memory of our fallen heroes. Hon. R. T. Bennett will deliver an address on the life and services of Brigadier-General James Daniel. Col. Thos. R. Kenan, one of the most faithful and gallant of the officers of that brigade, will act as Chief Marshal. He cordially invites all the old soldiers of the city and of the surrounding country to aid him and to appear in the procession, mounted. One by one the old soldiers are dropping from the rolls, but we trust that so long as there remains two of them alive, they will continue this beautiful custom and have a reunion on the 10th of May, over the graves of their fallen and lamented comrades.

By reference to a letter from Bro. McLaughlin, in this issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, it will be seen that the Farmers' Alliance has been planted in our sister state of South Carolina. The work was began in Spartanburg county only a few days ago and nine Alliances have been organized. The movement is well received by the best farmers and the organizer thinks he will find but little opposition to his work.

Auburn Alliance, of Wake county, is said to be in a very prosperous condition. They have just completed and paid for their new Alliance hall, which is a neat building, 24x50 feet, two stories high. The upper hall will be used for the meetings of the Alliance exclusively, while the lower hall will be let for township meetings school purposes, lectures, exhibitions, &c., for a small cash consideration, which will go into the general fund of the Alliance.

NOTES FROM MIDDLE CREEK  
ALLIANCE.

MR. EDITOR :—I have seen nothing as yet in your paper from this section, from our Alliance. We have been in working order now since the first of September, 1887. Our lodge has increased until at this time it numbers some sixty members. We number among our brethren some of the most substantial farmers and mechanics of this section. We are situated in the midst of a fine farming country, a section capable of producing everything known to the Commissioner of Agriculture at Washington. Why then is it that for years the working men have been oppressed? The answer is, "Because of speculation and monopoly." Down then with speculators and monopolists, and up with 16 ounces to the pound and 36 inches to the yard. In other words, simple honesty, and fair dealing is our motto.

There is an old adage, and true, which says: "There is strength in unity." Let us then stand together "With hearts for every fate, still achieving, still pursuing learning to labor and to wait." "We should trust no future, however pleasant, but act in the living present heart within, and God overhead." Acting then upon this motto, we should stand ready to assist each other in all laudable undertakings. We have no disposition to make war upon any class of men. We ask only simple justice, which for years has been denied us. Self-preservation is the first law of nature, this is admitted by all men, and we predict that in years to come the builders of the Farmers' Alliance will be recognized as the faithful guardians of a country, dear alike to all professions and to all classes of men. And may the Alliances now being organized stand like beacons on a long line of coast to warn us of the dangers ahead.

The many candidates now being pressed for office in our State are worthy, without exception, and far be it from me to utter one word of detraction in regard to either of them. No one has a greater admiration for the noble sons of North Carolina than your correspondent, but all things being equal, why should not Alexander be our next Governor? X.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.  
A TREATISE ON NEAT FARM-  
ING.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., May 1, 1888.

To an agricultural man, nothing is more pleasing to the eye than a neat, well-kept farm. You can very often tell a man by the appearance of his farm. A farm neatly kept is generally profitably kept. Go over the farms of the country and you can see stumps that might have been taken out of the way ten years ago. Take into consideration the loss of time in going around these stumps and catching on their roots with the plow—the worry thus given to the plowman and the team—the wear and breakage of tools, the amount of ground taken up that produces nothing, and it looks to me like it costs more to leave an ordinary stump in the field than it does to take it out. You have stumps in a field; you want to prepare it for small grain; here comes your two-horse plow, your double-trees catch over the top of the stumps; you get that loose, and next thing your plow point catches; you can't plow up close to it. This worry is repeated a dozen times or more an hour. Then comes your smoothing harrow; you can't harrow up close to the stump except by stopping and going in circle all around the edges of your obstacle; here comes your har-

vesting men; every stump has to be stopped at and picked around before you save all the grain.

Multiply all this trouble and annoyance for one year, by eight or ten years, and it is no small matter. Of course, in freshly cleared land it might be practical to take out the stumps, but I'm speaking of all the old snags and stumps that might have been taken out long ago, and can be taken out now by a little attention every year. I'm practicing what I am here preaching, to some extent, because I find I can get along faster, do better work where I remove these obstacles than where I do not. Snags and small stumps can be taken out in a few minutes with a good sharp mattock—larger ones take a little more time—dig the top soil away, cut off the side roots, take a good strong sappling 15 or 20 feet long, lay the large end beside the stump, dull a log-chain around the pole and some of the strongest roots, hitch a pair of horses to small end of pole and drive around in a circle, twisting off the tap-root. This I have found a good plan in some cases. A little work and attention each spring and fall in this line will clear our farms of a great many annoying obstacles. So far, neatness is profitable.

A great deal of the above might be said of rocks. It is almost impossible to do good harrowing where there are rocks. They not only break the teeth of the harrow, but raise it above the surface of the ground, thus preventing the work designed. We often have in our fields a patch of surface rocks that could easily be hauled off and thrown into some wash near by, thus accomplishing two good ends.

Another thing that presents an uncomely appearance on our farms is hillsides and rolling lands washing into gullies. I never see these washed-away lands and gullies without thinking, that if proper attention had been given at the right time, a large per cent. of them might have been saved. True, they might not, and did not stand continual cropping, but if they had been seeded to clover and the grasses at that time when they would have produced them, and this treatment had been repeated every few years, I do think a good per cent. of them would have been good lands today.

I merely suggest this for future usefulness. We must look ahead; we must adopt those systems that will build up and improve, and not wash away. Take an area of ten miles, and just imagine for a moment the amount of land that is wasted in this way. Much of these lands cannot now be reclaimed, but the point is to keep a keen eye on what we now cultivate, lest they be in the same condition by the next generation. A little time spent each spring and fall in the way of filling in pine brush and any trash that may be near, cutting ditches at the right place, and if practical, throwing on a little manure and seedling in clover or peas will not only be time well spent, but will wonderfully help the looks of our farms and country.

Another eye-sore is a little piece of land in the middle of a field that is not worked up with the rest. This little piece is not as good as the rest, and consequently it is used as a convenient place to turn at in the field. I've seen fields with half a dozen or more such little pieces. This is an easy job. A few loads of good manure applied to these places will soon bring them up, and the whole field can be cultivated, and not only be profitable but more pleasing to the eye.

The great question before the farmer of to-day is not how to go into the forest and clear out new land and make good crops, or how to ditch and clean up low lands and make fine corn, but how to take these lands of ours, that have long since lost their virgin fertility, improve them, make good crops on them, and at the same time do it at a profit. The farmer is often referred to ante bellum times of plenty, but seldom referred to ante bellum soils in their original fertility. I am farming land now, that once was worked under the system of "exhaust the substance and throw away." I can't do this, I have nothing to fall back upon, and of course the work that lies before me is to take care of, and improve what I have. I firmly believe that under a system of stock raising, sowing clover, the use of the pea, and a proper rotation our lands will improve. I am glad to say that our farmers are making great progress in this direction; more manure is made, more clover sown, and the prevailing thought among the leading farmers is to make their farms more fertile. The day is dawning. F. S. NEAL.